



The Churchill Community of Knowledge

An Open Access Digital Archive

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ABSTRACT

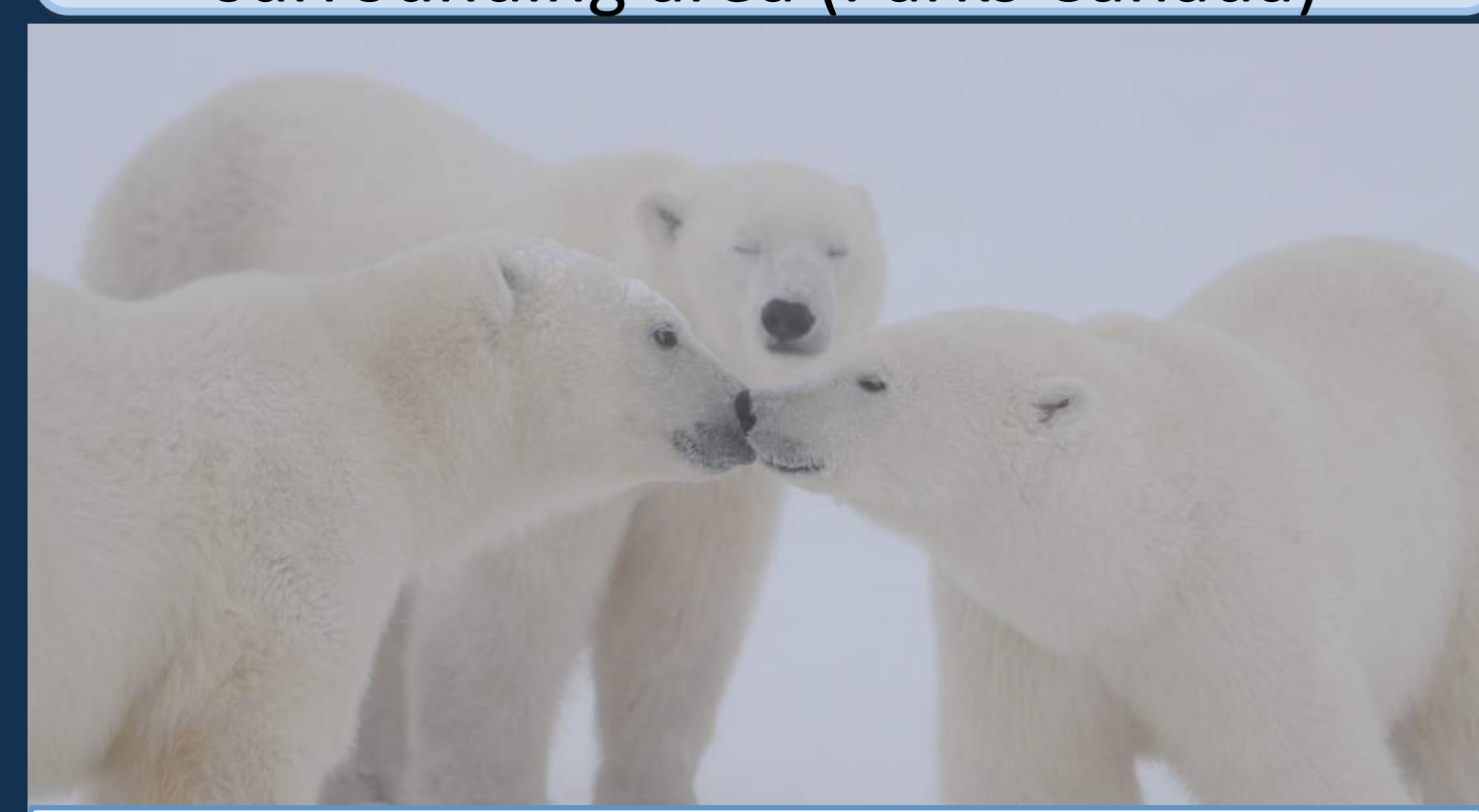
The Churchill Community of Knowledge Digital Archive is a YorkSpace Institutional Repository research project led by IRIS (Institute for Research & Innovation in Sustainability) and York University Libraries. Its overall goal is to document, coalesce and mobilize long-term ecological research from Wapusk National Park and, more broadly, Churchill, Manitoba. To date, the project has engaged 10 undergraduate & graduate Biology students in developing metadata for copyright-cleared digital media & uploading items. Diverse communities, including the public, can access the Open Access archive via Google searches.

INTRODUCTION

York University's Institutional Repository is an Open Access online resource hosted by the university library. Institutional Repositories are self-archiving collections from a university's entire community. The Churchill Community of Knowledge Digital Archive is one of many collections in YorkSpace. It comprises digitized media from the diverse long-term ecological research at Churchill, Manitoba, Canada. This project began as a commemoration of the life and research of Prof. Robert L. Jefferies (see right), who studied plant-herbivore interactions in Hudson Bay salt-marshes (1978-2009). The project subsequently expanded to include the broader long-term lesser snow goose research (began in 1968 by Prof. Fred Cooke). We digitize and upload many kinds of media e.g. Kodachrome slides!



Figure 1: Map of Churchill, Manitoba and surrounding area (Parks Canada)



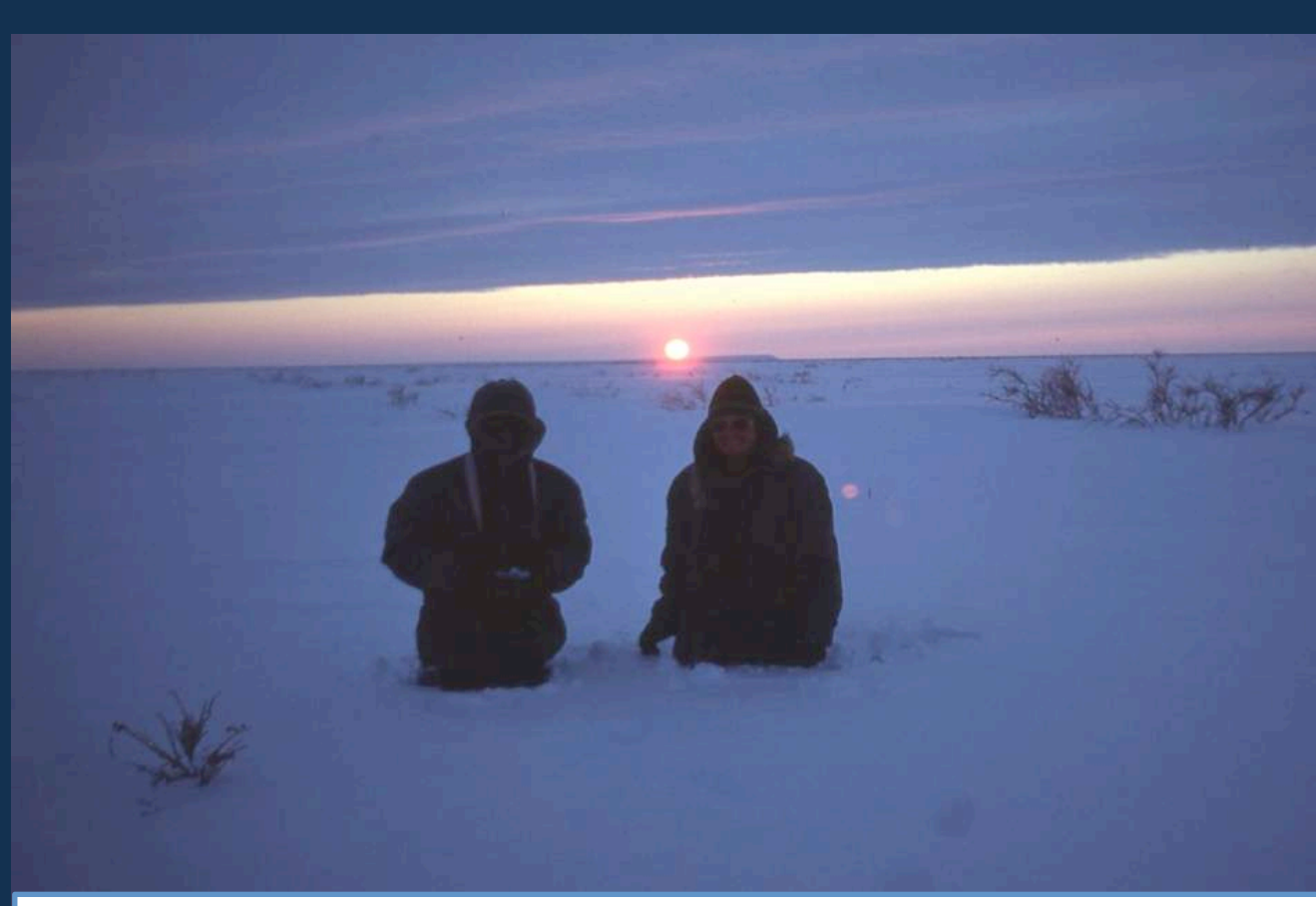
Polar Bears, Churchill, Manitoba, Pete Ewins
<http://hdl.handle.net/10315/18742>



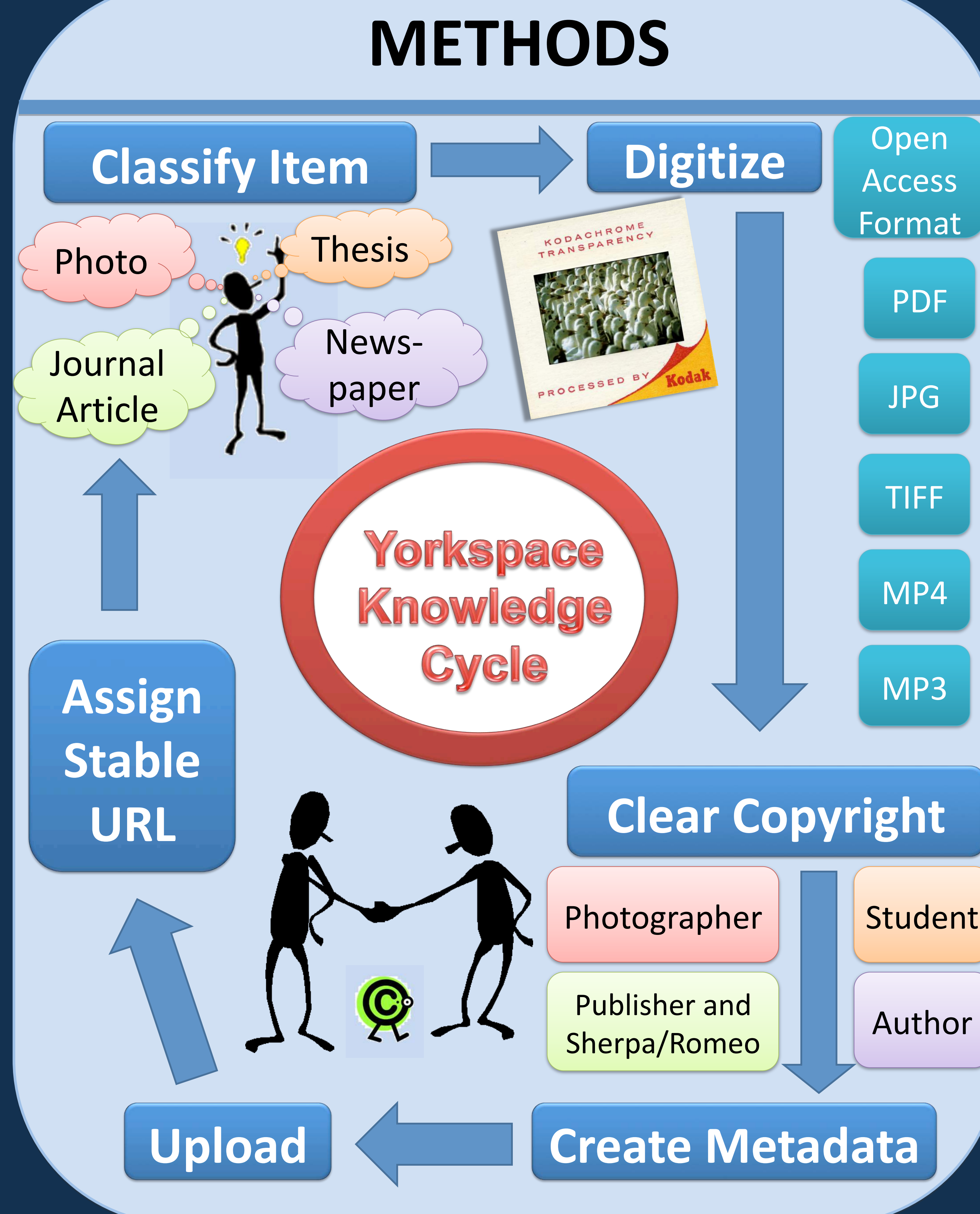
Field Camp, 1977, K. Abrahams. To be deposited



Aurora Borealis, Hudson Bay, 1983 Dawn Bazely
<http://hdl.handle.net/10315/13820>



K. Abrahams. To be deposited



CHURCHILL COMMUNITY OF KNOWLEDGE
<http://yorkspace.library.yorku.ca/xmlui/handle/10315/8089>



Lesser Snow Goose Banding Crew 1983, Dawn Bazely



Female Willow Ptarmigan, La Pérouse Bay, P. Kotanen
<http://hdl.handle.net/10315/20849>



Dr. Robert L. Jefferies



Snow Goose, La Pérouse Bay, Peter Kotanen
<http://hdl.handle.net/10315/20852>



Dr. Fred Cooke, 2013



K. Abrahams. To be deposited



Hatched White-Phase Goslings, Fred Cooke
<http://hdl.handle.net/10315/21563>

RESULTS

Our four main outcomes to date:

1. Over 80 peer-reviewed papers made available in an Open Access format. Copyright permissions verified via Sherpa/Romeo and direct correspondence with publishers.
2. The preservation of diverse ancillary information and data, including graduate theses, correspondence, grey literature (e.g. field notebooks), images (e.g. Kodachrome slides of field sites), and other media, with comprehensive metadata.
3. Training and research in developing Metadata and digital archiving procedures for undergraduate Biology students registered in the research practicum course: a regulated voluntary research internship with Biology faculty that provides a transcript notation.
4. The support of citizen science & mobilization of research to broader publics. The Churchill community biocuration project has been eye-opening for the many past Churchill field researchers who participated. E.g. Dr. Ken Abraham, ret'd Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Wildlife Scientist, submitted his 1970's Kodachrome slides.

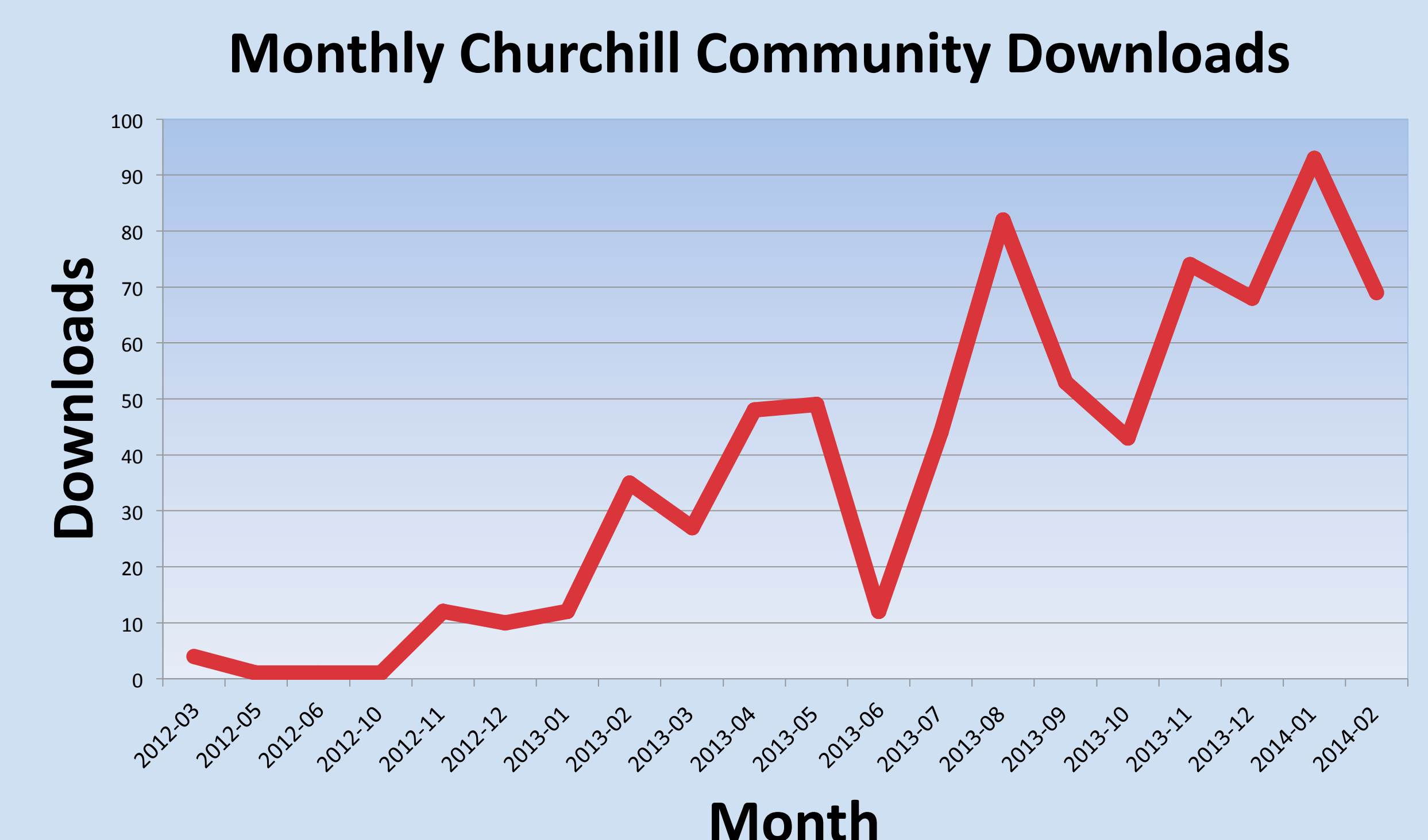


Figure 2: There has been an overall increase in the number of downloads over the last two years.

CONCLUSIONS

Our YorkSpace outreach has moved beyond academia, to link the public with peer-reviewed research & its ancillary materials. Whereas university libraries only allow members to access books & journals, Institutional Repositories e.g. Yorkspace, remove the paywall barrier. The easily searchable & accessible materials available through Google search, can enrich public knowledge about the Churchill research and other collections with a click of a mouse. The Churchill community biocuration project aims to be at the forefront of supporting the Canadian university mandate to mobilize knowledge through biocuration (the provision of good metadata). Our next steps involve exploring how to improve engagement with the local Churchill, Manitoba community.

Many thanks to Parks Canada & CNSC for support.